



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/360,678	07/26/99	CRONK	P D0968-00024

008933
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MMC2/0913

EXAMINER

DUONG, H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 09/13/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/360,678

Applicant(s)

Cronk

Examiner

Hung Duong

Group Art Unit
2835



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2,3

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2835

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

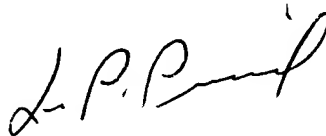
1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the allowability recites at least in part: a pair of raised side edge portions or raised lateral side edges and that the leather grained layer be disposed between these side edges or side edge portions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Duong whose telephone number is (703) 308-4889.

HVD

07/24/01.



Leo P. Picard
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16, 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seto et al. (US Pat. 5,841,630) in view of Andre et al. (US Pat. 5,870,282).

Regarding claims 1-16, 18-20, Seto et al disclose a portable computing device 1 comprising: a housing having top 17 and bottom 2 portions connected by a hinge 28, the top 17 and bottom 2 housing portions having an inwardly facing surface, an outwardly facing surface and a peripheral edge; a set of keys 12 disposed on an inwardly facing surface of the bottom portion 2; a display screen 18 disposed on an inwardly facing surface of the top 17 portion.

Seto et al fail to disclose a leather grain layer disposed on an exterior facing surface of the top portion. However, Andre et al teach a leather grain layer disposed on an exterior facing surface of the top portion (see Delamater column 9, lines 30-34). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to achieve cosmetic leather grain layer on exterior facing surface to be attractive or unique appearance of the portable computer device.

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3. Claims 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seto et al. (US Pat. 5,841,630) in view of Andre et al. (US Pat. 5,870,282) and further in view of Ma (US Pat. 5,880,928).

Regarding claim 17, Seto et al and Andre et al disclose all the subject matter of the claimed invention except for computing device comprises a speaker or microphone. However, Andre et al teach computing device comprises a speaker (see Ma column 1, lines 65-67). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the speaker of Ma into Seto and Andre computing device for convenient communication within the system.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ishida (US Pat. 5,949,565) teaches portable electronic apparatus.

Yates (US Pat. 6,082,683) teaches formable cushion.

Kim et al. (US Pat. 6,101,086) teach portable computer with hand grip.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Duong whose telephone number is (703) 308-4889. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 to 5:00PM.

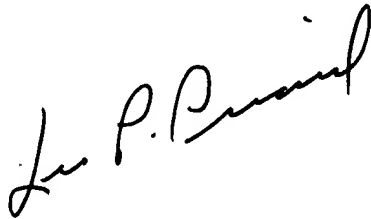
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P. Picard, can be reached on (703) 308-0538. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)308- 7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956 .

HVD

8/24/00.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo P. Picard", is written diagonally across the page.

Leo P. Picard
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800